

## PROCLAMATION INTERNET SAFETY MONTH

June 2004

**WHEREAS**, the Internet has revolutionized communications and become an integral part of nearly everything we do – connecting us to people, businesses, schools and government in ways never before seen; and

**WHEREAS**, the wealth of information made available through the Internet and the easy access to it have provided a gateway for criminal activity, especially for the 48 million children users nationwide who are more vulnerable to this threat; and

**WHEREAS**, youth in North Dakota are accessing the Internet at higher rates every year, providing them with new educational and recreational opportunities, but also exposing them to potential online abuses; and

WHEREAS, Internet safety education and awareness are vital to empowering our youth with the knowledge to take control of their Internet experience and recognize and avoid inappropriate and unlawful online behavior; and

WHEREAS, I-Safe America, a non-profit Internet safety education foundation, has organized local committees to promote online safety for North Dakota youth throughout their homes, schools and communities; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, as the Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim June 2004, **INTERNET SAFETY MONTH** in the state of North Dakota.

/s/ John Hoeven Governor

Attest:

/s/ Alvin A. Jaeger Secretary of State